

In the Claims

1-23 (canceled).

24 (currently amended). A method of treating inflammatory and/or autoimmune diseases multiple sclerosis comprising the administration of a composition comprising a soluble protein comprising a sequence having at least 85% of homology with 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1), said soluble protein inhibiting the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10.

25 (previously presented). The method according to claim 24, wherein said soluble protein is chosen from:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1; or
- b) SEQ ID NO: 1 fused to the signal sequence of human CD164.

26 (currently amended). The method according to claim 24, wherein said soluble protein has at least 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and inhibits the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10 is an active protein or an isoform of SEQ ID NO: 1.

27 (withdrawn). The method according to claim 26, wherein said soluble protein is chosen from:

- a) MGC-24 (SEQ ID NO: 6); or
- b) the mature form of the extracellular domain of any of the following human CD164 isoforms: CD164-delta 4 (SEQ ID NO: 4), CD164-delta 5 (SEQ ID NO: 5).

28 (previously presented). The method according to claim 24, wherein said soluble protein is glycosylated.

29 (previously presented). The method according to claim 28, wherein said soluble protein is glycosylated at any of the positions as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

30 (previously presented). The method according to claim 24, wherein said soluble protein is phosphorylated.

31 (previously presented). The method according to claim 30, wherein said soluble protein is phosphorylated at any of the positions as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

32 (previously presented). The method according to claim 24, wherein said soluble protein is myristoylated.

33 (previously presented). The method according to claim 32, wherein said soluble protein is myristoylated at any of the positions as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

34 (previously presented). The method according to claim 24, wherein said soluble protein is a soluble fusion protein.

35 (previously presented). The method according to claim 34, wherein said soluble fusion protein comprises a signal sequence.

36 (previously presented). The method according to claim 34, wherein said soluble fusion protein contains a Histidine tag.

37 (previously presented). The method according to claim 36, wherein said soluble fusion protein is SEQ ID NO: 2.

38 (previously presented). The method according to claim 34, wherein said soluble fusion protein comprises an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

39 (currently amended). The method according to claim 24, wherein said soluble protein is ~~a conjugate, an active derivative, a proteolysis-resistant modified form, a conjugate, a complex, a fraction, a precursor, and/or a salt.~~

40 (canceled).

41 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting the expression of one or more cytokines in an individual comprising administering to said individual a composition comprising a soluble protein comprising a sequence having at least 85% of homology with the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and wherein said cytokine is TNF- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\gamma$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, or IL-10.

42-44 (canceled).

45 (new). A method of reducing alanine transaminase (ALAT), IFN- $\gamma$  or IL-6 levels in an individual comprising the administration of a composition comprising a soluble protein having at least 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) to an individual in an amount sufficient to reduce said levels of ALAT, IFN- $\gamma$  or IL-6, said soluble protein inhibiting the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10.

46 (new). The method according to claim 45, wherein said soluble protein is chosen from:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1; or
- b) SEQ ID NO: 1 fused to the signal sequence of human CD164.

47 (new). The method according to claim 45, wherein said soluble protein has at least 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and inhibits the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10.

48 (new). The method according to claim 45, wherein said soluble protein is a soluble fusion protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

49 (new). A method of reducing inflammation-induced recruitment of lymphocytes, macrophage and neutrophils in an individual comprising the administration of a composition comprising a soluble protein having at least 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) to an individual in an amount sufficient to reduce the recruitment of lymphocytes, macrophage and neutrophils, said soluble protein inhibiting the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10.

50 (new). The method according to claim 49, wherein said soluble protein is chosen from:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1; or
- b) SEQ ID NO: 1 fused to the signal sequence of human CD164.

51 (new). The method according to claim 49, wherein said soluble protein has at least 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and inhibits the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10.

52 (new). The method according to claim 49, wherein said soluble protein is a soluble fusion protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

53 (new). A method of reducing inflammation comprising the administration of a composition comprising a soluble protein having at least 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) to an individual in an amount sufficient to reduce the recruitment of lymphocytes, macrophage and neutrophils, said soluble protein inhibiting the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10.

54 (new). The method according to claim 53, wherein said soluble protein is chosen from:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1; or
- b) SEQ ID NO: 1 fused to the signal sequence of human CD164.

55 (new). The method according to claim 53, wherein said soluble protein has at least 95% identity to the mature form of the extracellular domain of human CD164 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and inhibits the cellular expression of cytokines selected from interferon- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10.

56 (new). The method according to claim 53, wherein said soluble protein is a soluble fusion protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.